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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

14 APR 1960

Mr. John A. Calhoun, Director
The Executive Secretariat
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Calhoun:

Mr. Dulles has asked that the attached letter and enclosures from Mrs. Cotton be forwarded to your office for whatever action is deemed appropriate. For your information, I am also attaching a copy of our reply to Mrs. Cotton.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Executive Officer

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Enclosures

cc: Joe, ERW as of basis

EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE

100-2-1110 - Knoxville, TN. June 3, 1944

Executive Order

41-3817

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Perhaps you will remember the beloved brother, the late Dr. Thomas A. C. Thomas, who suddenly died four years ago. He was Professor of Pediatrics at the New York Hospital, Consultant at the Roosevelt Veterans Hospital, served his Country as a civilian to his utmost ability during World War I, receiving a Citation for his services. He was a friend and physician to some high ranking Government's Service, and helped to bring those from other Countries. He was a Humanitarian, dedicating his life to the healing of troubled minds. Because of his efforts in research, he laid down guidelines in his Profession, for others to follow.

My husband, Dr. Robert C. Cotton, Specialist in Industrial Medicine, proudly enlisted in our Country's Service during World War I, serving twenty

even months (part of that time overseas).
He was honourably discharged.

When World War I
Veterans, marched into Washington, demand-
ing a bonus, he spoke against such
practices in many groups, feeling it was
the beginning of the breaking down of
our moral fibre. Due to overwork and
strain, he died suddenly just as World
War II came to an end.

I write all this to
you as my introduction to you.

At my own expense
I went to Hong Kong to do a little research
on the field of the refugee problem, and
to know how our Federal aid was being
used to help these poor, destitute, trapped
people. I personally went to Kowloon's
Mills Island. The Refugee Student Aid
Project on the island is about the youngest
organization on the island. This

organization is managed by the
dedicated selfless Christians I saw
there. They have not received a penny
of our Federal Aid. All are orphan
boys, and roaming the streets with
no one to care for them. Some had
the courage to swim across the border
to safety, rather than become indoctrinated
into Communism. They were some
encouraged by their Parents to do so.

The Kansas Mills Refugee
Student Aid Project saw the desperate
need to ^{help} these boys in the Protestant
Faith and educate them into becoming
responsible men, who may well be
the leaders of to-morrow in that Colony.
and become our devoted friends.
We show we care enough about them
to help them. I wrote to the Consul
General in H.K. Jan 26, informing
him of the urgent need for assistance.

Mrs David Taylor, Hon Sec, (see ~~enclosed~~
copy) also wrote and up to date
we have not received a reply. Perhaps
both our appeals for a share of our
Federal Aid and the need for some
sustaining aid, has been unintentionally
laid aside by a staff clerk.

Mrs Dulles, I beg your
interest and help ~~it is so urgently~~
needed and we must not fail them.
Whatever you can do will be more
than appreciated by this organization
and by me. "To love mercy and do
justly" is the reason I feel compelled
to write to you.

Most Sincerely
Mrs Robert W. Cotton

P.S. Although the Island was named
Rennell Mill's Island, there is no family
connection.

Rennies Mill Refugee Student Aid Project.

It costs at least US \$10.00 (HK\$50.00 or £2 English, £1 Australian)
to provide for one for a month.

I wish to sponsor a student for a month.
or I wish to make a monthly subscription for general maintenance
or I wish to make an initial subscription of

N.B. Exchange rates: HK\$50.00 to US\$1.00

HK\$10.00 to £1

HK\$12.00 to Australian £1.

The average amount needed to maintain one student is
HK\$50.00 (US\$1.00) which includes school fees, food and
sundries.

An adequate new "mosi" for the family would cost about
HK\$10,000.00, with plumbing and lighting installation.

Please send all contributions by cheque or money order to

Mr. David G. Fowler, Hon. Secy

C. P. Education Y.M.C.A.

Salisbury Road

Kowloon, HONG KONG

Rennies Mill Refugee Student Aid Project

Founded 1957



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Education Y.M.C.A.
SARISBURY RD.
KOWLOON,
HONG KONG.



A Happy Family.

CAR is not only to house and feed these destitute boys, but to provide education in order to make them self-supporting, responsible men. It is our hope that they will be equipped both mentally and spiritually to face the world and to help others to combat social evils.

The need for housing students at Rennie's Mill Refugee settlement is an ever-present and a very urgent problem.

Boys have been abandoned there by parents living elsewhere who are too poor to provide for them. Boys come to us who have only a mother, often too ill or undernourished to care for a large family.

On one occasion a young boy of only nine years was brought by a friend whom he had traced after swimming across the boundary river between Hong Kong and China, sent by a desperate mother who preferred to lose her son to Hong Kong than to have him removed to Communist training camps where boys over eight may be sent for indoctrination in Communist teaching.

No boy without a home is refused admission even though bed spaces are inadequate.

More sponsors are urgently needed in order to maintain the present family, and to allow for taking in other desperate cases as they arrive. We have several boys without any sponsor or regular income to maintain them.

The "family" is housed in three small houses, and we have a full-time house mother and assistant warden. We urgently need to build an adequate home for them, properly equipped with kitchen, dining room, study room and dormitories. Almost every week requests come to care for another destitute one, and our means of provision and accommodation are already strained to the utmost.

Will you help us to provide for those who have no one to care for them by filling in the form on the back.



Family Fare.

Rennies Mill Refugee Student Aid Project

(IN ASSOCIATION WITH DR. AND MRS. SAUNDERS OF PAN PACIFIC CENTERS, INC.)

President

Mr. O. Hamilton M.B.E.

Committee

Archdeacon and Mrs. Donnithorne

The Rev. A. Espgren

Miss D. Noding

Mr. H. R. Baker (Hon. Accountant)

Mr. D. G. Taylor (Hon. Secretary)

c/o European Y.M.C.A.,
Salisbury House,
Kowloon,
Hong Kong.

Tele. 60544

Our Ref.:

Your letter:

Hong Kong, 9th March, 1960.



I have received a letter from Mrs. E.R. Cotton of Murrysville, Pennsylvania informing me that she has written to you with regard to assistance for our project which she hopes could be allocated to us from the Federal Aid. We would sincerely appreciate any help that you are able to give us as we are hoping to develop our homes and are in the process of erecting a new hostel which is costing us \$42,000. Even with the completion of this, our accommodation would seem to be inadequate by the numbers of boys who are constantly being sent to us by one Mission or another and other organisations.

You may remember that we were the recipients of the generous offerings of the American community Thanksgiving Day Service last autumn and this gift was most sincerely appreciated and gave us encouragement to begin building our new hostel.

We now have 23 boys in residence in our very small houses at Rennies Mill and as already mentioned there is constant need for development and improvement.

I am enclosing some literature for your perusal and if you felt able to help us we would be most grateful.

Yours very sincerely,

D.G. Taylor,
Hon. Secretary.

Encl: